

MB note – make this two sessions – one focusing on David’s free spirit seen in his gratitude and one focusing on the process of jealousy that developed in Saul. In 2005, MB focused more on the process with Saul and do not hardly mention the gratitude of David note this presentation was half verse by verse and half thematic – this is a challenge to present it clearly with sense of a story line.

Session 11 David: Living with a Free Spirit (1 Sam. 18)

I. DAVID ENTERS A NEW SEASON OF PROMOTION WITH UNCERTAINTY IN GIBEAH

A. Life in Saul’s court: David favor and His relationship with Jonathan (18:1-5)

Now when he (David) had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. 5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. (1 Sam. 18:1-5)

B. After David killed Goliath, he suddenly entered into a new season in God. He began a time of promotion and national prominence that included great uncertainty and danger (1 Sam. 17-20). This period lasted about 4-5 years (from approximately age 18-23).

C. David was invited to move to Gibeah, which was King Saul's royal court or governmental headquarters which was the Wash., D.C. of his day (1 Sam. 18:2).

D. David’s new relationship of favor with Saul’s oldest son, Jonathan, who was the number two person in the kingdom. (1 Sam. 18:1, 3). David was given a position of authority in the army as a young man about 20 years old (1 Sam. 18:5). He was accepted by all the people of Israel and all the servants in King Saul’s court (1 Sam. 18:5). The young women throughout the nation sang songs of David’s triumph (1 Sam. 18:6). David was honored in marrying the King's daughter (1 Sam. 18:27).

E. The covenant relationship between Jonathan and David: the robe spoke of Jonathan’s position of authority in the government and the shield and sword were his weapons of war. In other words, all Jonathan’s wealth and honor was at David disposal as well as Jonathan’s commitment to fight David’s battles. Took off robe, means to unveil secrets of heart and not hide themselves in one another’s presence, (vulnerability). armor is to not shield themselves out from one another’s life. Sword is to fight for each other even unto to death. sword, bow, belt means, “I will fight for you, stick with you” Jonathon made a covenant with David. this was God's provision for David to have a friend in the enemy's household. The Lord often in the most difficult hour, has already prepared an ally in right place. C Key covenant verses between Jonathan and David. V. 4, key covenant relationship verses with it symbolism, .Jonathan gave his robe to David, Sam 18:4 His robe is his position of authority another statement about the robe "I'm going to be open and honest. I will not cover my heart". "I'm will not cloak or hide myself from you". armor means "I'm will fight for you. I'm put my shield up for you. sword - "I will fight for you and not fight against you.

- F. David finding his comfort in the Lord as circumstances suddenly go from positive to negative then back to positive. David sees many turns of circumstances in 1 Sam. 18-20. David has known how to find God in the security, isolation and solitude of hills of Bethlehem.
- G. v5 promotion
 - 1. “Saul set him over the men of war.” As a significant promotion for a man of age 21 to be set over the men of war. He is already the national hero. He is fearless and guileless in his spirit. He is highly promoted and set over the men of war. Here is the staggering thing. He was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants. Saul’s staff in whom David was promoted beyond liked him. The reason is because he did not use his position to manipulate things. The people under him instead of being threatened saw that they would be enhanced by David treating them wisely. I need to use wisdom in all promotions mostly by not taking but serving. This is only possible by receiving identity from the Lord had not from favor of men.

II. THIS TEMPORARY PROMOTION WAS TO TRAIN DAVID’S HEART FOR HIS FUTURE

- A. David’s identity was tested and strengthened by early praise and success (promotion before men).
The crucible for silver....but man is tested by the praise he receives. (Proverbs 27:21, NIV)
- B. God’s purpose of this season was to train David’s heart for future days. Some young people stumble in the a season of promotion by misinterpreting it and thus, being distracted from focusing on developing their primary identity as a lover of God who cultivates a servant spirit.
 - 1. David was anointed by Samuel and a national hero but still doing menial tasks in running errands if the prophet Samuel anointed you as number one person in the nation in God’s purpose then the man rejecting you sends you on an errand. cover of USA Today, as national hero but still running errands.
 - 2. Saul sent him over the men of war Saul set David over men of war. Although, David's prophecy to be the commander and chief as King

Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands. Don’t be naive about promotion knowing it always brings trouble. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep
"It's much more difficult to rejoice with someone who is rejoicing than to weep with someone who's weeping". It's easier to weep with someone who's lost something. Rejoicing is hard if one of your long term friends is separated by Lord for special blessing. One you’ve been in trenches with is suddenly David could have been mad at those young singers for stirring up Saul, Gals, you did not help me out"! he behaved wisely with perspective about the new national press that he was getting To be overly excited about the "song of the ten thousand" means he lacked understanding. David was probably more sobered by it than David probably knew that the song was trouble. "What more can he get but the kingdom?" 1 Sam 18:8. it dawned on Saul. . . This is him"! It must have shocked Saul and grieved him. Why did it have to be him? Why couldn't it have been someone else"?

- C. His promotion came abruptly, however, it left just as suddenly, as he found himself fleeing from Gibeah for his life to enter a time of adversity in the “Adullam years” (that lasted about seven years) where David would be tested with hardship and difficulty.
- D. We naturally seek out the positive side of promotion without always understanding its downside. God sends promotion in a package that will protect our hearts from pride and the many sins that flow from pride. We must adjust our vain imaginations about God’s promotion in this life. To seek promotion without seeking to develop meekness (servant spirit) with even greater urgency results in disappointment.
- E. God uses turbulent circumstances to re-align and strengthen our hearts in truth. We must always remember that God is mostly after establishing meekness in and through those that He is raising up to anoint. God established David then, with a view of establishing him in meekness so as to use him to reign in the Millennial Kingdom.
- F. Leadership Lesson: early successes can be deceptive if misinterpreted as a season to establish their name instead of a time to grow in God. Some sell out quickly at the first signs of success by leaving their focused pursuit of intimacy with God to busy themselves with making their ministries bigger.
- G. Jealousy strikes the heart of king Saul. The two perspectives of the attack against David.
 - 1. The enemy is attacking David. There two different ways to view that spirit of jealousy on Saul. Both perspectives are true. The most common perspective is, that the “enemy attacked David through Saul’s jealousy.”
 - 2. The other view is that it was God’s school to train David in the love of God. It is God’s school to train David in voluntary love of God.
- H. In God’s economy this is the safety net God puts around David. David is tested with praise and adversity at the same time. **Can David find God in prosperity with pressure of praise and jealousy.** David is in the embrace of God. If David can get to the place where he rejoices mostly that he is in the embrace of the beauty of God then David will be stabilized in the future.
- I. God has total control on the devil. God can pull the devil’s chain anytime that He wants. He can remove Saul anytime that He wants. The devil’s rage is being used as God’s seminary for King David because God is training a king that can bring a nation into the knowledge of God.

III. DAVID IN TIME OF PROSPERITY

- A. It Is Harder To Find God In Time Of Prosperity

- B. Prosperity Creates Jealousy
- C. Joseph was the favorite and had many dreams of promises from the Lord. Gen. 40. Joseph told his brothers and I wrote in my bible, “bad.” Wherever there is prosperity, somebody views that prosperity as belonging to them. They view which God gives you as belonging to them. They in a distorted way imagine it was something taken from them.

IV. DAVID LIVING WITH A FREE SPIRIT

- A. In 1 Sam. 18, we see David’s heart and spiritual understanding as he lived with a free spirit because of his relationship with the Lord. David’s identity was tested by praise along with the uncertainty as “his place of favor” was constantly changing.
 - 1. ***A free spirit*** – is to live “in the present tense with the Lord” without being weighted down and being self absorbed (distracted by fear, offense or grasping for personal rights, honor, position, money, etc.), but rather living in generosity toward both friends and enemies because he trusted in God’s goodness.
 - 2. ***An anxious and guarded spirit*** – is to live continually in fear of loss, rejection and carefully guarding how much one is willing to give (love, money, honor) to others.
- B. The foundation of having a free spirit is having the assurance that what you want most cannot be stopped by man. If what we want most is focused on our internal life in God then we can be sure that no man can block this goal. With this assurance, we cannot be bought or sold by men’s favor or threats. However, if what we want most is focused on circumstances, then we can never have the complete assurance that man cannot block these goals. Thus, we end up with a guarded spirit that fears not attaining or sustaining circumstantial blessings.
- C. In all the seasons of David’s life, he sought to know the joy of living with a free spirit by experiencing active intimacy with God (beholding God’s beauty/waiting on God) as he trusted God’s goodness.

One thing I have desired of the LORD...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD...13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD...14 Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD! (Ps. 27:4, 13-14)

Create in me a clean heart (free of sin and fear), O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...12 Restore...the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous (free) Spirit. (Ps. 51:10-12)
- D. He actively trusted God to release His bountiful goodness in the best timing.

The LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Ps. 84:11)

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth. (Ps. 31:5)

V. THE STRUGGLE OF UNCERTAINTY: CONTINUALLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. The circumstances in David's life in this season, were constantly changing from one extreme to another. He started out with great favor in the king's court and marrying His daughter. However, soon he experienced great danger as the king sought to kill him (1 Sam. 19:1).
- B. David did not know where he stood with King Saul. Things seemed to change near daily. Although, circumstances were constantly changing, David's heart stayed steady in the strength of God.
- C. This season of changing circumstances (uncertainty) and early promotion was God's strategy to train David's heart to be steadfast in a future time of greater turbulence called prosperity. David's worst sins occurred in the times of his greatest honor and prosperity when he was king of all Israel (age 37-70).
- D. In 1 Samuel 18, 19 and 20, turns and twists many times. People long for time when things are stabilized, where they can count on favor and blessing. without needing encounter to survive.
- E. David learned to enjoy God without clarity of what to expect from others in changing circumstances. One of most difficult tensions in life is in not knowing what to expect. Where do I stand? In favor or adversity? Sometimes it is impossible to know what to expect. This is a time when the Lord is forming our hearts. It is normal to want to know where we stand in the circumstances around us, but God does not always allow us to know this. God allows uncertainty that we might find our primary security in our relationship with God. God does not want our security to be in what we know about our circumstances or our future, but in Who we know.
- F. David lived with open handed expectancy as he considered the promises that God gave him through the prophet Samuel as well as those given by King Saul.
- G. At times like this it is easy to draw back since our identity is in the place of favor that we may occupy for a season instead of in the One who gives favor and takes it away. To look to people and circumstances as our primary source for attaining our destiny is to live with an anxious and guarded spirit. Often, our heart changes when circumstances change. In other words, our happiness depends on circumstances working out.
- H. The way to cultivate a free spirit is to live before an audience of One and to see our primary greatness in God's sight which will only be fully manifested in the age-to-come. David cultivated this in his youth (while still in his early 20's). This is unique and remarkable steadiness at such a young age.

VI. DAVID'S CORE REALITY: SPIRITUAL IDENTITY BASED IN INTIMACY AND MEEKNESS

One thing...that will I seek...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD (Ps. 27:4)

I will meditate on the glorious splendor (beauty) of Your majesty...(Ps. 145:5)

I will love You, O LORD, my strength. (Ps. 18:1)

He delivered me because He delighted in me. (Ps. 18:19)

Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand...8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye. (Ps. 17:7-8)

- A. The primary way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life was by two core issues: intimacy with God and meekness before people. In other words, first, to establish his primary identity (his sense of value/success) in intimacy with God as being loved by God and in being a lover of God then second, to walk in meekness. David ***felt successful before God (ultimate sense) in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love and meekness.***
- B. David's primary identity (value and success) was established in who he was spiritually or who he was in his intimacy with God. In other words, who he was before God as "one that God loved" then as "one who loved God" in return (overflowed to others). In this and by the anointing of the Spirit, David ***felt*** the power of being loved by God and of loving (God/others) in return. David's primary paradigm of success was in being successful before God (which is ultimate success) with the "anointing to love and live in meekness." This is a radical paradigm for living on earth.

I am my Beloved's, and His desire is toward me. (Song 7:10)

- C. **Leadership Lesson:** Our primary identity in life is to be one who is "loved and a lover" therefore, we are successful before God (which is ultimate).

VII. SEEING GOD AS OUR SOURCE AND GOAL

- A. **Our challenge is to see God as our source and goal.** Man's favor or threat is partially given to help us see God's goodness working in our lives. The real issue is that we understand that we receive our primary inheritance from God (not men), in God (not in positions) and for God (not for our prideful use).
- B. **We easily get our eyes on man whether we are experiencing their favor or their threats.** We can see some of the truth of what is in our heart by seeing our response to favor or threat. The measure that we are mad, glad or sad about man's favor or the threat of losing it, tells us how much we look to people more than God as our ultimate source of promotion and provision.
- C. David trusted the Lord or put his hope in Him in times when he experienced man's favor and threat. In other words, David viewed God as His primary source and not Saul's favor. Therefore, David was not afraid of losing God's favor.
- D. David viewed his greatness as being found in growing in meekness not in being king over Israel. David saw his ultimate destiny as ruling after the Lord's return not during his initial earthly reign (1 Chr. 28:4; Ps. 37:9-11, 18, 27-29).

The LORD...chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever. (1 Chr. 28:4)

Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore....²⁹ The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever. (Ps. 37:27-29)

Those who wait on the LORD...shall inherit the earth...¹¹ the meek shall inherit the earth (Ps. 37:9-11)

The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. (Ps. 37:18)

- E. **Leadership Lesson:** to see God as our source of promotion, protection, provision and direction and not the resources of even powerful kings.

VIII. CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES – SAUL’S INITIAL JEALOUSLY TURNS TO HOSTILITY

- A. There is a 2-fold leadership lesson related to Saul in 1 Sam. 18.
1. Do not be a Saul by seeing the people as our source instead of Lord.
 2. Do not fear Saul by seeing Saul as our source instead of Lord.
 3. Both responses will cause us to live with an anxious and guarded spirit that needs to continually manage fear of loss, rejection and carefully guards how much we are will to give to others.
 4. The spirit of Saul came against David in different seasons of his life. When he was young there was an old king, Saul, trying to wipe him out. When David was older, young Absalom with spirit of Saul, seeking to do the same thing. **In both situations David acted like David when he was old and when he was young.** David did not care about being king. Being king is not what David was about. Being king is what you are about. That is not what I am about. Even when David’s son, Absalom, rose up years later when David was king, David said, “He can be king. I never wanted to be king. I want God. If God makes me be king then I will be king. But if He does not then I do not want to be king.” Saul’s identity was in his position thus always had reason for fear. David is being trained not to be a Saul.
- B. There was a significant progression in Saul’s fear and jealousy towards David.

If you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (Jas 3:14-17)

1. To act on or speak out of fear and/or jealousy causes it to grow and opens the door for demons to move in our inner man. There is a point in time when demonic energy enters the emotions of those who yield to them. As Saul spoke and acted in fear and jealousy, they both grew in his heart as each one fueled the fire for the other.
 2. This pattern is inevitable to anyone who allows the negative seed of fear and jealousy to grow instead of uprooting it with repentance. It will surely grow if it is not aggressively confronted in our heart.
- C. V. 9, “Saul eyed David with suspicion or envy. Anger turned to jealousy. Jealousy has a power of rage with insanity to it The spirit of jealousy working insanity in our thinking. It is a powerful spirit. It will dominate our lives if we allow it to grow. The answer is heart wrenching repentance and honesty before God. “God, I am jealous. I want stuff more than You want to give me. I am sorry.”
- D. That is how you root jealousy out of your heart with ruthless honesty before the Lord.
- E. **The test** - Can David he stay humble with praise? Can he stay humble with jealousy? Humble means to bless and not fight back with a wrong spirit. That doesn't mean we don't address it with people – just do it with a right spirit David successes so far - captain over a thousand. In Saul's court, national victory, covenant relationship with Jonathan. The people accept him. Life is better than it was in Bethlehem.
- F. **David is tested** with the fruit of success which always has jealousy. Some are dismayed and confused by this. The rule of success is that there will always be somebody to attack it. The person God anoints in business, or ministry, etc. When Lord's blessing is there, the vessels needs more wisdom - always! Lord allows jealous adversaries because he wants us to have more humility and more wisdom. This is what God values in us. A person's heart is tested by praise. If stay in the place of servanthood when exalted. In other words, they can be corrected, reviled, slandered, without attacking back – fighting, then they passed the test of praise. If you can have prominence then still embrace menial tasks, along with someone lower correcting or revile us without reviling them back, We pass the test of praise. When some get a little prominence they say "Who are you to tell me? They need somebody equal status to tell them something negative or make a complaint. We must not fail the test of praise, or the test of jealousy. If a jealous person comes against us, and we retaliate in the same negative spirit. In other words, spirit of jealousy answered with the spirit of revenge. It's is still a wrong spirit

- G. **MB was tested** - I remember as a young pastor, I struggled with jealousy. I had a church growing. I was 24 years old at the time and the church grew to about 500 people in a couple of years. There was a new church that started down the road. This guy started it and it grew to about 1,000 in a year. He was a very fiery, anointed young preacher. Maybe, 50 people from my church joined him. I went down to see what was happening. "I determined to be like a David." I went down there and the guy said some legitimately wrong things, from scriptural point of view. I said in my heart, "This is not right." I felt the hot displeasure of the Lord. I was sick. I remember driving home that night and I was sick in my heart.. I began to strengthen by arguments as why they were true. I said, "Lord, You know this is bad doctrine. You know it is hype." The Lord pressed me on this. He would not let me go. The Lord made me go to their mid-week service for nearly a year. Every Tuesday night I drove about 25 minutes away. All the people that had left our church about 50 where there said, "Mike, it is good to see you." I am mad at everybody of course. I was trying to sort through this because the young man was definitely anointed. There was no question, but definitely some weird stuff that years later he rejected publicly, as error. The Lord made me pray for him then it got worse than that. Not only did I go every Tuesday night and my time was valuable. I had to give a good report everywhere I went because the pastors around the city were getting mad at him. Eventually the church grew to 5,000 people and pastors in the area rose up against him. The Lord made me bless him every time, but in my heart I did not like it. Then He made me a second tithing to him after I tithed to my local church. "Lord, I do not have enough money." He said, "give to him and I will bless you." I said, Lord I will not say anything bad about him, I promise but do not make me give money to him." I warred with a spirit of jealousy (that I did not call jealousy). I called it godly concern for the people who were getting hype. I have drunk that poison myself. I know it when I see it. The amazing thing is something broke through and we became good friends. The Lord at that key hour would not let that evil seed root and sprout in my heart. that was a crisis moment in my early ministry If I would have gone the other way, I would have a different spirit today. That spirit saps all the energy of your life. Your tenderness goes. It was a terrible struggle. I hated the feeling of it. I hated admitting it that it was true. The whole thing was ugly. The Lord said, "I am trying to heal you. I am trying to take something out of your heart." At that very time, I was teaching the life of David and suffering through it.
- H. Saul's initial anger grew to jealous suspicion.

As they were coming home...from the slaughter of the Philistine, the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul...⁷ The women sang...and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." ⁸ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ So Saul eyed David from that day forward. (1 Sam. 18:6-9)

1. V. 6-7, is the turning point When David and Saul returned from slaughter of Philistines that women came out singing, “The anointing on Saul is enough for thousands. Saul’s heart was swelling with pride because this was a great exaggeration. Saul thought, “They recognize God’s anointing on me over thousands. Yes! Yes! Thank you. The enemies of the Lord are slain before me. You are right.” David has slain ten times as much as ten times the anointing.” That is trouble. Saul enjoyed being attributed to slaying thousands as long as that was the highest number. I have seen this for years, to be biggest fish in little pond than a bigger fish in a bigger pond but not the biggest. People cannot take it when somebody new comes into their sphere with more this tests their heart.
 2. V. 8, “Saul was angry” with the new David on the scene who with more people praising him. he seed begins as anger then grows, if not dealt with. Then eventually a full scale demonic attack hits. It starts as anger then becomes depression then a fixation against them then eventually murderous What now can he have except for the kingdom.” The fear begins to dominate.
 3. Billy Graham most maligned, persecuted man in 20th century in America in kingdom of God. Billy Graham in ‘70’s, ‘80’s and 90’s is different than Billy Graham in ‘40’s, ‘50’s and ‘60’s, hundreds of bible-believing, born again pastors joined together to call Billy Graham the most dangerous man in the kingdom of God in America. He was maligned beyond what you imagine. His star was rising. His numbers were bigger. The heart of Saul is stirred when someone new comes on the scene with more favor. Saul’s find reasons to criticize
- I. Saul was attacked with a demonic spirit resulting in his first act of hostility toward David.
- It happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul...David played music with his hand...but there was a spear in Saul's hand. 11 Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. (1 Sam. 18:10-11)***
1. V. 11, “Saul cast the spear.” This is his first act of rage. Once we do the first act then the second one act is much easier. David is becoming disillusioned with Saul saying, “The king with the anointing to kill God’s enemies is great ideal.” But he is enraged V. 12, “Saul was afraid of David.” Saul should have been afraid of the Lord not David. That is how David was. Even if David wanted the kingship, he could not take it from Saul if Saul had walked in the fear of the Lord. Saul’s fear was in the wrong position. Saul knew that the Lord was with David and that he could not beat God. This enraged Saul. Saul’s view was that David is disloyal and about to disrupt his kingdom.” He was flattering himself instead of repenting of his jealousy. V. 13, Saul removed him from his presence and demoted him. He is no longer in the king’s court.
 2. Three injustices 1) he is demoted here in v. 13. 2) broken promise about his oldest daughter. Saul gave David his troublesome younger daughter. I will give you the one that I know will bring you down.” 3) issue of the dowry requiring that David kill a hundred Philistines

- J. Fear set in as Saul feels threatened by David. This leads Saul to other acts of aggression against David. Then, Saul removed David from his position. David was Saul's most effective servant. Saul could have benefited greatly from him.

Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. (1 Sam. 18:12-13)

1. V. 10, "It happened on the next day that a distressing spirit from the Lord came upon Saul." Saul opened the door to the evil spirit by persisting in jealousy. The same is true with immorality, it opens up the door to a perverse spirit laying hold of you Rom. 1: progression is the message of Saul's life 1 Sam. 16-31 David gives us a picture of the very situations that will occur again in End-Times No spirit can take hold of us unless we unlock and open the door The way to get rid of that spirit is by shutting the same door. It is more difficult to get rid of the spirit than it is to get it the first time.
2. It is a lot more difficult because you have to be so ruthlessly honest in the area of repentance to lock the door of entry that let this spirit lay hold of you. As believers, feeling tormented has roots back to opening the door often to bitterness, unforgiveness, jealousy or perversion. We have to face it and call it what it is, to get free of it. Getting rid of a demons it a hassle. People curiously walk into demons. They play with pornography, drugs and put their heart in front of it. Then it is a hassle to resist the demon that has been invited in.

V. 15, "When Saul observed that David was behaving wisely, he was even more afraid." If David acted crazy then Saul would have had opportunity to undermined him, but to stay stable and happy is the worst for Saul. Saul sees that David is dangerous, in that he cannot be bought and sold or moved. Let us be different, let the people say bad or good and let the Lord take care of it. V. 16, "But all of Israel and Judah loved David because he went out and came in before them." It means that he lived his life as an open book before them. There was no hypocrisy. He was guileless. He lived openly before them without pretense. He was not living a secret life with a secret agenda. He spoke with an open heart.

V. 17, v. 27 episode with Saul's daughters This was an evil act with violence from Saul's point of view. Not just a domestic mix up. This was a determination to cause David trouble and to get him killed. V. 28, "Saul knew the Lord was with David. Saul was even more afraid now." Nothing is working. It has gone from jealousy in v. 9 to "enemy continually," v. 29. Saul is entrenched. These 3 chapters show the progression with the specific steps to becoming entrenched. I am convinced, when I was 24 years old, if I would not have obeyed the Lord in going to the meetings, praying for him, not speaking against him and then giving to him. Then a wrong spirit would have settled in my. We all can find ways to validate our strange behavior when we have the wrong spirit. When God is speaking to you in this, be ruthless with yourself.

What happens is in v. 29, the person becomes your enemy continually. You are consumed with thinking about them. That is one of the ways that you can tell. It is by how much you are thinking about them, this person who is moving in and disturbing your turf. If you are thinking about them a little too much then you are on the verge of v. 29.

- K.

- L. Saul's foundational issue was his fear and jealousy compounded by the knowledge that the Lord left him and was with David. Note the contrast between David acting in wisdom and Saul growing in fear. David's wisdom (1 Sam. 18:5, 14, 15, 30) was related to his free spirit. We can see more clearly when we are not "clouded by smoke" of seeking to gain or fearing to lose that which is held by man's favor.

David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. 15 Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them. (1 Sam. 18:14-16)

Saul was still more afraid of David...30 Then the...Philistines went out to war...whenever they went out...David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul...(1 Sam. 18:29-30)

Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David...(1 Sam. 18:28)

1. David behaved wisely as was not taking advantage of his position in any way. David's wise behavior is related to not using his promotion in any personal way. Some get some promotion then broker the information with the king in a wrong way. Some bully others, or manipulate with the info. They use their promotion to promote themselves more in unwise way. David behaved wisely in position of favor.
2. No name dropping, nor information brokering and followed through in commitments when boss was away and not looking. David behaved wisely in promotion which is a difficult thing to do. Only way to do this right is when our identity is in Lord and not in the promotion. Almost irresistible temptation to use position and relationship to access to information.
3. The reason is because he did not use his position to manipulate things. The people under him instead of being threatened saw that they would be enhanced by David treating them wisely. I need to use wisdom in all promotions mostly by not taking but serving. This is only possible by receiving identity from the Lord had not from favor of men.

4. David still acts wisely as v. 5. David is not telling others about how bad Saul is treating him. David acted wisely relates to holding his speech. (16:18 prudent of speech). David had a hundred true stories against Saul. He did not use one of them. He had a hundred promises broken, but did not tell one. David had a 100 injustices but would not make one of them known. He acted wisely in demotion as he acted wisely in promotion. Why? Is he just wiser than everyone else? No. He had his identity in something else. When the promotion on his way up, he did not lose his perspective with all the new attention. On his way down he did not get foggy because he was losing attention with all the new rejection. We lose our wisdom because we get smoke in our eyes and cannot see clear anymore. David could act wisely because he could see clearly because going up or coming down was not the biggest issue in his life neither blessing or trauma of his life. The power of his life was reality with God. The true favor or trauma in his life was in losing favor or reality with God. That is what caused David pain and not going up or going down the social and financial ladder. Blessed is the one who can act wisely going up and wisely coming down. When we are a good season, I guarantee we will go down again. Do not get too used to it, I guarantee after we go down a little bit we will go back up in momentum numerically, spiritually, financially. Let's not get overly connected to where we are on the Ferris wheel of favor and blessing. We do not want to get dizzy going up nor dizzy coming down. newly open doors and also newly closed doors make people dizzy without clear identified in Jesus Lord makes us exercise our heart so we love Him in it all. He acted wisely, this is powerful. He did not make himself a victim. He did not tell the story. He did not tell how good he was or how bad everybody else was. It did not matter most to him. They said, "what happened with you and Saul? You are not living at the kings court" "yes, I am moving. It is in the Lord's hands. I am overly worried about it." "No, tell me. Tell me the real story." "No, it does not matter. I am really okay." "No, no, come on, we are friends. Tell me the real story. What really happened? What did they do to you? Everyone is interested in a story like that, but David acted wisely. I look at this passage and say, "God, I want to do that." I do not to get dizzy going up nor in going down but to hold my tongue in both directions

M. Saul sought to kill David indirectly by giving David his wife then demanding a dowry which would result in David being killed by the Philistines. David responded in gratitude not fear or anger at being put in a position that required him to either risk his life or insult the king by refusing his daughter.

Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." 18 David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" 19 But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adiel...as a wife. 20 Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. They told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today." (1 Sam. 18:17-21)

N. Saul continued with a series of deceitful schemes (v. 22, 25) as he maintained his plan to kill David indirectly by demanding a dowry for Michal. David responded in gratitude not anger as Saul broke his word to David about his first daughter Merab, this was a public (national) insult of David.

Saul commanded his servants, "Communicate with David secretly, and say, 'Look, the king has delight in you...therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'" 23 Saul's servants spoke those words...and David said, "Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?" 25 Then Saul said, "Thus you shall say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 So when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to become the king's son-in-law....27 therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred men of the Philistines...then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife. (1 Sam. 18:22-27)

- O. Saul's fear and hatred grew more with each evil deed that he did against David until Saul became his enemy continually, which lead him eventually to seek to kill David directly.

Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him; 29 and Saul was still more afraid of David. Saul became David's enemy continually. 30 Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed. 19:1 Saul spoke to Jonathan...and to all his servants, that they should kill David...(1 Sam. 18:22-19:1)